

# educating the masses

# II

Here in Utah, we love to boast about our well-educated population. After all, 88 percent of Utahns over the age of 25 have graduated from high school compared to only 80 percent nationally. We do better in the college arena, too. Roughly 26 percent of Utah's adult population has a college degree compared to 24 percent nationally. (Unfortunately, Utah women show lower college-graduation rates than the national average.)

## Who's the Best?

However, all Utah counties aren't created equal when it comes to education. Of course, one might expect urban counties to encompass more college graduates. Typically, a city setting will offer more jobs requiring that degree. In fact, Utah, Davis, and Salt Lake counties all rank in the top tier of well-educated Utah counties. However, Weber County's position falls about midway down in a county-by-county ranking.

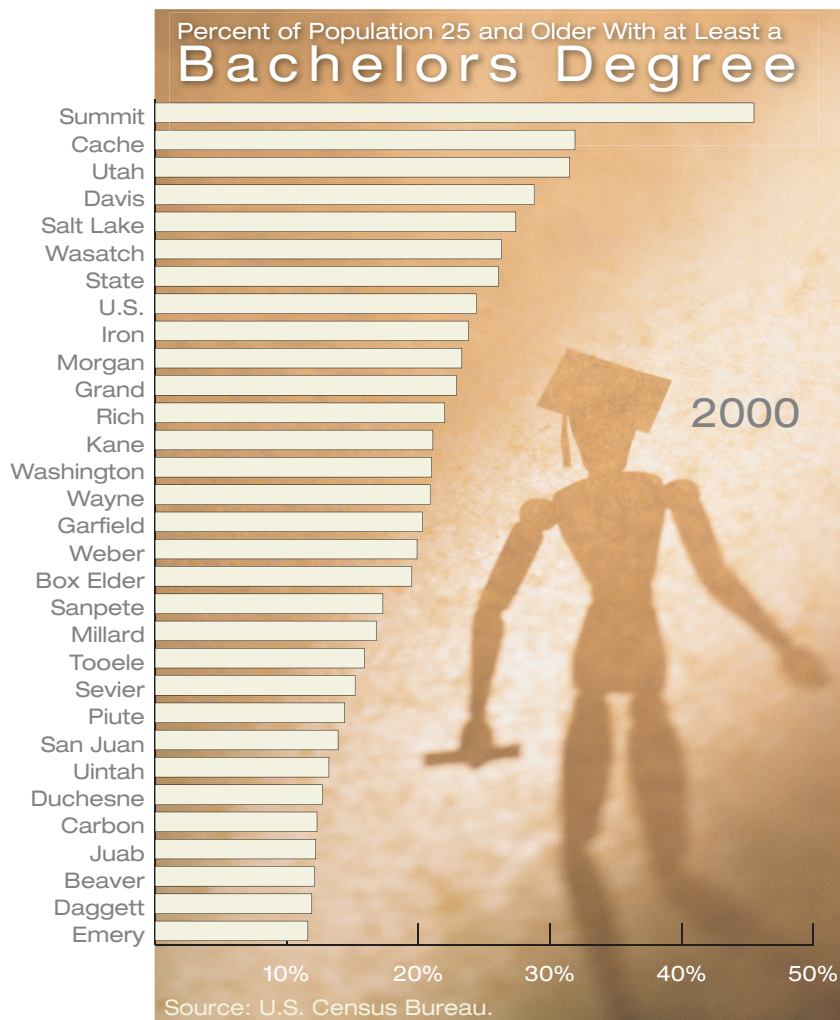
You might be surprised to learn that Utah's two best-educated counties (those with the highest percentage of college graduates) are located outside the "Wasatch Front." In Summit County, almost 46 percent of the population over the age of 25 has at least a Bachelor's degree—almost double the national average. Cache County falls next in line with a 32-percent college graduation rate.

For the most part, less-urbanized areas do have lower shares of college graduates. Those counties with the lowest college-graduate percentages are all more rural settings. Carbon, Juab, Beaver, Daggett and Emery counties trail the rankings.

The location of a four-year college or university seems to nudge up the level of college graduates. Both Cache and Iron counties have a higher share of Bachelor-degreed population than similarly sized non-university counties.

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## did you know?

- Dixie Regional Medical Center in St. George has completed a \$55 million project dedicated solely to rehabilitation services for patients who have undergone joint replacement or bariatric surgery. *The Spectrum*
- Newfield Exploration plans to plug about \$100 million a year for 15 to 20 years into a drilling program in the Monument Butte field in the Uintah Basin. *The Deseret Morning News*
- The Washington City Council approved a zone change for development of more than 240 acres of land owned by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration near mile marker 13 of I-15. The development would involve more than 5 million square feet of commercial space, including a hotel, medium-density housing, trails and open space. *The Spectrum*

## The Future?

While less-urbanized areas typically have fewer jobs requiring a college education than densely populated areas, education is becoming increasingly important on all fronts. Projections by the Utah Department of Workforce Services suggest that 20 percent of all new jobs created outside the Wasatch Front will require at least a Bachelor's degree. Statewide, the share is only slightly higher at 22 percent.

### More?

Go to: <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/demoprofiles.html>

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